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S/N 09/867,367

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicant:  | Rita Kumar  | Examiner:       | Wang, Shengjun |
| Serial No.: | 09/867,367  | Group Art Unit: | 1617           |
| Filed:      | May 29, 2001  | Docket No.:     | 11378.14USC1   |
| Title:      | A MICROBIAL COMPOSITION AND A PROCESS USEFUL FOR THE<br>NEUTRALIZATION OF ALKALINE WASTE-WATERS |                 |                |

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on April 18, 2002.

By: 

Name: Lisa R. Hill

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Dear Sir:

In response to the communication mailed March 11, 2002, Applicants provide the following comments. In the action, the Examiner requested restriction of examination to one of three groups. Group I comprising claim 1, apparently classified in Class 424, Subclass 93.46; Group II comprising claims 2-6, apparently classified in Class 424, Subclass 93.46; and Group III comprising Claims 7-8, apparently classified in Class 210, Subclass 601 and 610 as well as Class 424, Subclass 93.46.

In response to the request for restriction of examination, Applicants respectfully elect Group II comprising claims 2-6, apparently classified in Class 424, Subclass 93.46, with traverse. The basis for Applicants' traversal is that they do not necessarily wish to be bound by the logic of the Examiner in posing the request for restriction of examination.

Favorable examination of the claims now pending herein is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By *John J. Gresens*

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Date: 4/18/02

